

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA
CONVENED THIS 29TH DAY OF MARCH, 2012 5:28 P.M.
WAR MEMORIAL BUILDING
435 FAIR OAKS AVENUE**

**ROLL CALL, PLEDGE OF
ALLEGIANCE**

At 5:28 p.m., Mayor Cacciotti convened the special meeting of the South Pasadena City Council, which was held as a budget workshop to elicit input from the public for the FY 2012-13 budget. City Clerk Kilby called the roll and led the Pledge of Allegiance. City Councilmembers present: Joe, Khubesrian, and Schneider (arriving at 6:19 p.m.); Mayor Pro Tem Putnam; and Mayor Cacciotti. Absent: none. Other officials present: City Treasurer Pia; Interim City Manager Gonzalez; Police Chief Payne; Fire Chief Wallace; Finance Director Thai; City Librarian Fjeldsted; Community Services Director Pautsch; Public Works Director Toor; Planning and Building Department Director Watkins; Transportation Manager Woods; City Clerk Kilby; and various representatives of City departments.

**WORKSHOP
EXPECTATIONS
PRESENTATION BY
FINANCE DIRECTOR**

Interim City Manager Gonzalez provided an overview of the budget workshop. City Treasurer Pia made a brief presentation. Finance Director Thai made a presentation and distributed copies of slides. Interim City Manager Gonzalez explained that attendees could visit department tables, which were set up around the room, and ask specific questions about departmental operations and budget. He said suggestion cards for budget items could be found at each table.

Interim City Manager Gonzalez, Finance Director Thai, Police Chief Payne, and Public Works Director Toor responded to numerous questions posed by City Councilmembers and the audience.

INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP

Interim City Manager Gonzalez invited the audience to visit the department tables at 6:43 p.m. and to reconvene to continue discussion. At the tables, attendees spoke with representatives of all departments. Brochures, displays, and materials about each department could be found at each table. A large poster board displayed each department's budget, functions, number of employees, and unfunded

projects. One board listed the FY2012-13 budget planning schedule.

**WRAP UP
PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mayor Cacciotti reconvened the group at 7:23 p.m. He invited public comment.

Don Jones, 1636 Fair Park Avenue, Los Angeles, spoke about the elimination of the proposed SR-710 freeway extension and the related issue of the Caltrans properties. He asked if the City had been contacted by Elaine Howle, State Auditor, who is investigating the impact of vacant properties on cities.

Diana Mahmud, no address stated, requested additional staff to cover tree issues; supported maintaining funding for the Library to comply with parcel tax requirements; and urged the Council to establish a community garden. She made suggestions about containing personnel costs and developing cost-saving ideas. She suggested consolidating commissions.

Carrie Adrian, 602 Garfield Avenue, Chair, Finance Committee, made remarks about the City's financial liability and the need for substantial reserves.

John Lesak, 1242 Koll Avenue, Cultural Heritage Commission, spoke about the need to update the 10-year-old Historic Resources Survey, which needs to be updated every five years.

Odom Stamps, 318 Fairview Avenue, noted that the City has operated at a loss for several years. He asked about raising fees to cover the loss. He said the Eddie Park House needs attention and could be restored to a higher and better use. Ellen Daigle, 1525 Oak Meadow Lane, responded that when she was Chair of the Parks and Recreation Commission, this was investigated. She said the options are actually quite limited.

David Margrave, no address stated, said the only way to control costs is to limit expenses, e.g., by eliminating the Library. The City should be able to operate on property taxes only, he said. He made related remarks.

COUNCILMEMBERS'

Councilmembers made comments about the workshop,

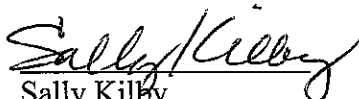
COMMENTS


thanking members of the public and staff. Mayor Cacciotti made remarks about progress that has been made in 11 years.

ADJOURNMENT

Interim City Manager Gonzalez made concluding remarks. He said the department boards would be displayed at the Library and put up on the web. He said that additional public input will be requested when the draft budget is presented in May 2012, and again in June 2012, when the budget will be presented to the City Council for approval.

By consensus, the City Council adjourned the special meeting at 8:10 p.m.


Sally Kilby
City Clerk


Michael A. Cacciotti
Mayor